AGHAM BAYAN

SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

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The Restrengthening of Liga ng Agham Para sa Bayan (LAB): A Challenge Among the Revolutionary Scientists and Technologists

The backward state of science and technology (S&T) in the country is a reflection of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal character of the Philippine society. The underdeveloped agricultural system in the countryside and the stunted state of the industry and technology is deeply rooted to the rule of the imperialist US.

With the backward condition of science and technology, the genuine development that is suppose to provide, at least, the basic economic, political and cultural needs of the people have been denied. The unending poverty and the need to reorient the science and technology in the country necessitates organizing of the S&T sector.

> .....it remains our major task to completely sum up our experience in the context of the rectification movement and uphold the basic principles and program of the national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective.

It was in the height of the first quarter storm when the Kabataan Makabayan organized the students in the field of science and technology. Thus, establishing the Liga ng Agham Para sa Bayan during the early part of the 1970s. This was the organization that envisioned gathering and uniting the patriotic scientists and technologists that will respond to the economic, technical and military support needed in the

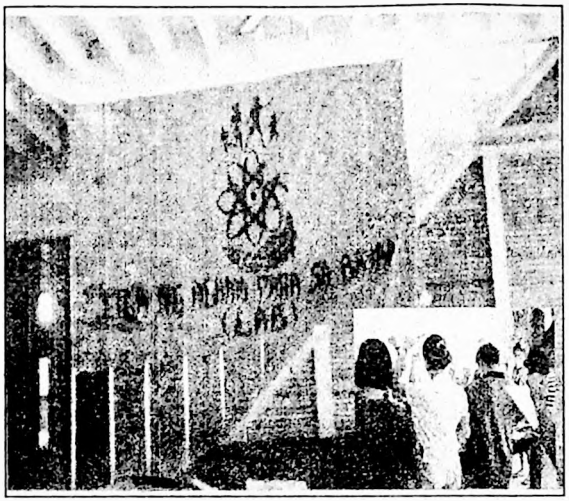
process of waging a people's war.

Through the years of its existence, the Liga ng Agham Para sa Bayan has been responsible in arousing, organizing and mobilizing the science workers. Part of their tasks included research and sourcing of technological, financial and logistical support for the revolutionary movement. Involved also is the manufacturing of weapons and ammunitions, chemical ingredients and communication equipments and gathering of basic data and developments in the field of bio-medicine, cryptology, naval and terrestrial sciences.

During the imposition of Martial Law, several members were arrested and detained while many others continued their struggle in the countryside. Those who remained in the urban areas went underground to organize and support the armed struggle.

In the summing-up of the sector, initial analysis reflected that in the overall context of S&T organizing, LAB

development was not sustained. Solid organizing took a backseat as more emphasis was given to advancing a specific S&T movement especially in the late 80's. The sector focused in establishing legal organizations and mobilizing its rank in the open mass movement while narrowly pursuing struggles for S&T democratic rights and economic interests until it acceded to reformism in the early 90's.



With the two-decade experience in organizing the S&T sector, still, it remains our major task to completely sum up our experience in the context of the rectification movement and uphold the basic principles and program of the national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective.

Along with this, a National Assembly of the Liga ng Agham Para sa Bayan was convened last September 1996. Scientists and technologists from various disciplines- education and research, health, engineering, physical and natural sciences participated in the Assembly. Chaired by comrade Maximo Rufino, the assembly focused on four (4) major events: (1) historical background of the S&T movement in the Philippines; (2) a glimpse of the S&T situation in the country in the overall context of the country's economic development; (3) review of LAB's con-

stitution and by-laws, and; (4) election of officers and members of the National Council and formulation of the three-year program.

To date, scientists and technologists are facing more vigorous challenges brought about by the worsening economic orientation of a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society. The problems besetting the S&T sector do not root out from the lack of government support but rather emanate from our society's economic orientation which prevents agricultural modernization and hinders national industrialization and development of our own technology. The advent of the present economic policies such as liberalization, deregulation and privatization concretely manifest these worsening conditions.

In view of the present situation and problems facing the S&T sector, there is a need to reunite and take up tasks that lay ahead. Thus, continuing our major task to arouse, organize and mobilize the S&T sector towards a national democratic revolution with socialist perspective.

Let us uphold and actively participate in providing support services in advancing agrarian revolution, armed struggle and establishment of our mass base, continue to advance the development of a nationalist, scientific and a mass-oriented culture, uplift a nationalist, democratic and community-based science and technology, and strengthen international solidarity with revolutionary and progressive forces abroad and unite with their anti-imperialist stance for achieving the widest possible support for the Philippine revolution.

If we choose the career in which we can do humanity the most good, burdens cannot overwhelm us, they are nothing but sacrifice for the benefit of all....Experience rates him as the happiest who has made the greatest number happy, and religion itself teaches us the ideal for which all strive, to sacrifice oneself for humanity."

Karl Marx

Liberalization of the Philippine Mining Industry:

Condemning the Country's Science and Technology to Backwardness

The liberalization of the Philippine mining industry further aggravates the already backward character of the country's Science and Technology

Historically, the Philippine mining industry dates back to the third century. Our forefathers were known to have engaged in mining of gold and copper only for internal and external trade. Despite the abundance of this wealth, they regarded this in different manner, working on the mines occasionally and only when the need arises.

Traditionally, the country is known to have vast mineral potential. Spain colonized us partly because of our mineral wealth and offered this as a tribute to the king of Spain. Laws were passed that served as the foundation of the colonial mining policy, setting the procedure for prospecting, locating and developing mines, all of which stressed that there is no right to mine lands based solely on ownership.

Under the American regime, privatization of the mineral lands was recognized with the passage of the Philippine Bill of 1902. The Mining Act of 1905 declared all public lands to be free and open for exploitation, occupation and purchase by citizens of the Philippines and the United States.

The aggressive development and utilisation of the country's mineral resources to support the industrial expansion of the US marked the American period. In maintaining the capitalist/expansionist policy, the US government intensifies research and development of the mining industry. It continues to search for more mineral deposits and conduct studies on the prospects of gold and other base metals in the country. They brought with them advance mining technologies and introduced the modern capitalist system of financing mining operation in an industrial scale.

Similarly, the Japanese occupation saw the mining industry provide the raw materials re-

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Editorial

CARRY FORWARD THE S&T REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION!

Agham Bayan is the official paper of the Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB). It was first published in the early years of the US-Marcos dictatorship (USMD).

Under conditions of open fascist rule and amid worsening economic situation, Agham Bayan became an important part of LAB's task of organizing and mobilizing the Science and Technology (S&T) sector, as well as to reach out to the broad masses of the Filipino people. It was one of LAB's instrument to expose the important issues and problems confronted by the Filipino people under the US-Marcos dictatorship. It helped the national democratic movement in exposing and isolating the US-MD.

The publication of Agham Bayan discontinued in the 1980s onward. This was a time of disorientation in the national democratic movement. At this period, LAB's efforts changed course too. Organizing the scientists and technologists was geared towards building a distinct legal sectoral movement. Solid organizing and LAB building took a secondary part. The deviation from the national democratic line and erroneous tactics eventually led to the decline in the membership of both LAB and the legal mass organization. In the process, underground propaganda work either took the sidelines or was replaced by mainly legal reading materials. Agham Bayan has not hit the press.

Under the guidance of the Second Great Rectification Movement, the task to organize and consolidate the ranks of revolutionary scientists and technologists for a national democratic revolution gains a new momentum. The first LAB Assembly in September 1996 affirms the unrelenting determination of revolutionary scientists and technologists to build a democratic movement in the cities and to support the armed struggle in the countryside. Consequently, the first LAB assembly maintains the important role of Agham Bayan in fulfilling LAB's revolutionary task. Agham Bayan gains more significance amid present imperialist ideological offensives.

Like its earlier edition, Agham Bayan aims to provide updates and timely analysis of issues and problems faced by the Filipino people and specifically the S & T sector. With this, Agham Bayan aims to be one of LAB's vehicle in reaching out, organizing and mobilizing the S & T sector for the national democratic revolution.

As LAB marches on, Agham Bayan will, at the same time, carry out its mandate in high revolutionary spirit.

Mabuhay ang Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan!
Mabuhay and Pambansa-Demokratikong Rebolusyon!

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quirement of the Japanese Imperial Army to support its war efforts.

The ruins of the war showed the mining industry suffered heavily as the fiercest battles were fought in the mining areas. Damage was estimated at 81%.

By 1946, the development of the mining industry was undertaken primarily by the Philippine government with emphasis on mine rehabilitation. But rehabilitation of the mining industry was hampered by lack of mining capital. The US government., seeing this as an opportunity to negotiate for economic trade has proposed the Philippine Trade Act of 1946. Acceptance of this Act was made prior condition in exchange for rehabilitation assistance.

But a 1950 survey shows that out of the 80 mining companies which applied for damage claims, only 70 was approved for payment totalling PHP 66,463,441.95. But the actual amount paid was only PHP 19,981,732.31, with unpaid balance of PHP 46,481,709.64.

In the 70's the mining industry moved towards Filipinization. However, this only means that take-over by the Filipino ruling elite and their favored contractors of the operations of most of the mining companies. Thus, the legalization of the unjust, grossly exploitative and culturally exclusive mining operations of the colonial forebears remained intact, to date.

The Philippine Mining Act of 1995: The Science and Technology Perspective

The usual benefits being cited with the entry of large foreign firms in the country, aside from the usual generation of jobs, is the benefit of technology transfer. History shows that foreign firms coming into the country do not really contribute to transfer of technology because no company will willingly transfer technology to other country, which can be a potential rival.

Our roles as producers of raw materials and importers of finished products have never been changed and will not easily be allowed to change because this will be

against the interests of the monopoly capitalists. Our role as raw material supplier has not afforded us or given us the opportunity to develop our own technology to locally produce goods and materials. Further, the influx of these monopoly capitalists has relegated our scientists into technical personnel in charge of assembly or some other mechanical process. Thus, our industrial production has remained for a long time, in the semi-processing of products.

Our scientists and technologists are held captive by the dictates of foreign industry. Research and development are limited only in the resource extractive fields that will benefit the mother country of these monopoly capitalists. The efforts by patriotic scientists at developing technologies aimed at making the country more self-reliant is continuously being frustrated by lack of funding, and government policies that aim to cater more to resource extractive technologies rather than developing self-reliant systems. The Filipino scientist is a skilled and tenacious worker, however, given the present system, they are denied the opportunity to help in the genuine national industrialization of the country.

With the enactment of the Philippine Mining Law of 1995, one of the usual benefits cited by the government is the supposed technology transfer that these foreign companies will bring with their activities here. However, given the control accorded by the Philippine Government to the foreign mining firms in mineral development, the promise of technology transfer will never happen.

Under the mining act, a foreign mining firm is given 100% control over the exploitation and development of the country's mineral resources. Aside from the incentives ranging from tax holiday, repatriation of investments, 100% remittance of earning and auxiliary rights which include water rights, timber rights easements rights and entry into private lands and concession areas, the mining conglomerates are accorded the right to demand confidentiality of information which could include the technology involve in mineral extraction and development.

A leading international

magazine on mining confirmed that the global mining industry have yet to develop a mining technology tnat would reduce the impact of mining activities on the environment. This belies the claim of FTAA applicants that the technology to be employed will be environmentally friendly.

Also, despite the presence of foreign consultants in many of the mining companies in the country, cases of environmental destruction resulting from weaknesses in the design of tailings pond continue to occur. A case most often cited was the massive spillage of mine tailings in Marinduque Province. The Marcopper Mining Corporation, which is partly owned by the Canadian-based Placer Dome, was cited for negligence for failing to address a previously identified problem in their tailings and which eventually resulted to its collapse and the contamination of the 30-kilometer Boac River in the Province.

The track record of mining conglomerates applying for mineral extraction in the country only serves to highlight the failure of their technology to control the damage of their mining operations to the environment. And that same technology is being applied in the country.

> It is now time for the truly patriotic scientists and technologists..... to fight against the overt efforts by imperialist industries to retard the growth and development of our science and technology.

Time and again the technological benefits of liberalizing the mining industry has been hailed. It is now time for the truly patriotic scientists and technologists, those who see beyond the profits and personal benefits of such policies to fight against the overt efforts by imperialist industries to retard the growth and development of our science and technology.

OFF Lotion, Eskinol, Pabango at M-16

Araw ng Biyernes, ika-22 ng Abril, isang libo, siyam na raan, siyamnapu at anim. Halong kaba, tuwa, at higit sa lahat, excitement or thrill ang nangingibabaw na damdamin sa araw na iyon.

Dala-dala ang luntiang backpack, bago, malaki at mabigat - apat na pirasong kamisa chino, tatlong leggings, apat na medyas, jacket, malong, bandana, sleeping bag na yari sa makapal na sako at may comforter pa. Siyempre, hindi maiiwanan ang swiss knife, maglite, zippo lighter, off lotion, at may dalang eskinol, salamin at pabango pa. Mistulang magkakamping, sa kung saan, sa malayong lugar.

Ako si Ason - isang ecologist, nakapagtapos sa isang tinitingalang unbersidad sa bansa at pansamantalang namamasukan bilang isang researcher sa isang intenational organization na ang pangunahing layunin ay i-monitor at pigilan ang marine pollution sa buong East Asia.

Bago sa akin ang rebolusyunaryong kilusan. At sa maikling panahon, ako ay kumilos, nakisalamuha at namuhay sa piling ng masa. Sa lahat, Kadwa ang tawag sa akin.

Kung ilang bundok ang tinawid, ay hindi ko na mabilang. Kung gaano katarik at kataas ay mababanaag ang pagsikat hanggang sa paglubog ng araw. Ang mga sapa at ilog na pinagtampisawan at pinagliguan ay mistulang mga sanga-sangang ugat, may malaki, maliliit at sumusuot sa kung saan. Saan man lumingon ay luntian ang mababanaag. Mga ibong kakaiba ang mga kulay, mga damong ligaw, naglalakihang mga pako, mga pine trees at kung papalarin ay baboy ramo o usa ang masasalubong sa daan. Pansamantala, ito ang aking naging tirahan. Malawak ang mga lupain, sagana sa pagkain, higit sa lahat, sa likas yaman.

Ngunit sa kabila ng kagandahan at kasaganahan ng kapaligiran, ay kasalatan naman ang mababanaag sa mga taong naninirahan. Bakit napakahirap ng buhay sa lugar na aking tinuluyan?

"Kadwa, marunong ka bang magmakinilya?"... tanong sa akin ng isang kasama.

"Oo naman", nagmamalaking kong sagot. Sa isip-isip ko," obsolete na nga 'yan at computer na ang 'in' ngayon".

Hindi ko lubos akalain, sa araw na yon, kami pala ay magdidildil ng asin para sa tanghalian. Dagdag ng pagod sa halos kalahating araw na paglalakad, gusto kong maiyak hindi dahil sa walang porkchop. Sumisikip ang aking dibdib dahil ako ay galit. Hindi ko masagot mismo ang aking katanungan - "bakit wala silang makain, samantalang ang yaman-yaman ng paligid?"

Walang elektrisidad, walang sementadong daan, bihira ang sasakyan. May mababang paaralan ngunit halos di gustong puntahan ng mga nagtuturo. Isang araw na lakaran - paakyat, pababa-

sa mga nagtataasang bundok bago marating ang uspital sa karatig bayan. Mababanaag rito ang kasalatan sa mga batayang serbisyo. Dahil ba sa ito'y malayo, dahil ba sa hindi nakapag-aral ang mga tao at hamak na mga magsasaka at manganganup lamang o sadyang tahasan silang pinapagwalang bahala ng ating pamahalaan? Mga katanungang pilit kong nilalapatan ng mga kasagutan batay sa ilang mga politikal at idolohiyang aking napag-alaman.

Mahirap pala ang night shift. Ganito ako doon - nakapirmi sa umaga, nagtatrabaho sa gabi. Nagbabahay-bahay, nagpapaliwanag, nagsasangguni sa mga masa at pilit sinasagot ang maraming katanungan sa abot ng kakayanan. Kadalasan, sarili ko mismo ay naliliwanagan sa aking mga kasagutan at nagugulat madalas dahil parang hindi na ako yung nagsasalita - walang ere, mahinahon at may laman ang mga sinasabi, may batayan, hindi hinuhugot sa kung saan lang. Marahil ito na nga yung pagsasapraktika ng mga teyoryang pinag-aaralan.

Minsan, sa isang pag-aaral ng LRP na ibinigay ko sa mga kabataan, noong nasa bahagi na kami ng NDR, bigla na lang akong sinabihan - "bakit ikaw ang nagtuturo niyan? hindi ka naman hukbo." Sa kalaunan, ako ay napaisip - kailangan ba talagang maging isang tunay na hukbo upang bigyang hustisya ang esensiya ng armadong pakikibaka. Marahil sa isang banda tama nga sila, hanggang teyorya lang ako, kulang sa praktika. Madaling magsalita, sumagot sa teyoretikal na antas at magbigay ng mga narinig na karanasan ng iba. Pero kailangan nga ba talaga... hindi... ngunit sa mga oras na yon, hindi ko sila masagot o matitigan sa mga mata.

"Ka Ason, ikaw na lang ang magbigay ng pag-aara"...

"Tulungan ninyo ako, hati-hati tayo"...

"Ikaw nalang, mas may alam ka."

Bakit ganoon, akala ko ba pag hukbo, matatas, maraming alam... may mga kahinaan din pala. Siguro nga, ang tingin nila sa mga nasa labas, lahat magagaling, mahuhusay mag-isip. Pero sa isang banda, iba pa rin sila. Mahirap maglakad at umakyat ng bundok pasan ang kalahating kaban ng bigas sa matinding sikat ng araw; matulog sa kung saan abutin ng gabi at harapin ang bawat araw na parang ito na ang huling araw sa munidong ginagalawan; malayo sa mga mahal sa buhay at ialay ang buong puso't kaluluwa sa mga masang higit na nangangailangan. Kung ang ilan man sa kanila ay hindi gagap ang mga teknikal na usapin ng mga isyung kinakaharap ng lipunan partikular sa mga lugar na ginagalawan, madali itong punan sa pamamagitan ng patuloy na tulong-tulong na pag-aaral. Ang mahalaga ay nakikinig sa kanila ang masa.

"Kumakain ka ba ng usa at baboy ramo

" Hindi"

"Eh yung musang o di kaya mga ibon?"

"Hindi rin"

"Dahil ba sa environmentalist

ka?...Dito saka na lang ang pagiging environmentalist, kung panalo na tayo sa rebolusyon."

Iba nga talaga ang pagtingin kung ikinakahon lang ang sarili sa salitang environmentalism, kumikitid yung pag-unawa. Sa kanila, hindi mayor na usapin yung pangangalaga sa kalikasan dahil hindi yun ang isyu, lupa ang usapin, ang pangangamkam sa mga ito dulot ng mga likas yamang matatagpuan dito. Masalimuot nga siyang usapin na ako mismo, sa mga panahong iyon ay hindi ko kayang iangat sa ideological at political na antas ang usapin ng kapaligiran, dahil tuwing nakakarinig ako ng blasting o sa bawat subo ko ng karneng pinaghahatian kung kainan, nanghihinayang ako sa mga buhay ng mga hayop na sabi nga ng isang kasama - ang mga hayop na yan ay may malaking ambag sa rebolusyon, katulong silang nagbibigay ng pisikal na lakas para sa tuloy-tuloy naming paglilos.

Sa kung saan man magpunta, armas ay dala-dala. Laging alerto, laging handa.

"Kasama, dalhin mo ito. Kung kinakailangan, iputok mo..."

"Ngunit masyadong mabigat.. Maaari bang saka ko nalang kuhain kung kinakailangan.. "

Ito nga ba ang dahilan? Ayaw ko siyang hawakan, ni ayaw ko siyang tabihan. Ilang buhay na kaya ang napawi nito, ilang kamay na kaya ang pinagdaanan nito. Kung dumating man sa panahong di maiiwasan, makakayanan ko ba siyang kalabitin? Nakakapangilabot na hanggang sa huling paglalakbay ay hanggang titig lang ang nakayanan.

Hindi nga pala ako magkakamping at lalo nang hindi ako magpe-pleasure trip. Hindi ko kailangan ang malaki at mabigat na bag. Hindi ko kailanagn ang OFF lotion, eskinol at mas hindi ko kailangan ang pabango.

Hindi kailangan ng kumot at unan sa malambot na higaan para masabing nakatulog ng mahimbing. Hindi kinakailangan ang porkchop at salad sa magandang hapag kainan para masabing busog. Hindi kailangan ng marami at magagarang damit para masabihang maganda. Hindi kailangan ng internet ng mga encyclopedia, ng mga patung-patong na degree mula sa unibersidad para matutu at maging dalubhasa. At higit sa lahat, hindi kinakailangang patunayan sa sarili at sa iba na ikaw ay magaling at isang intelektwal.

Mahirap na madali, masaya ngunit nakakalungkot. At kung may pagkakataon, ako ay babalik... para doon magpatuloy ng gawain?... Ewan ko... Peti-b. nga ako...subalit handang kumilos at magbago - kapiling at kaisa ng masa at ng mga kasama.

AGHAM BAYAN is a biannual publication of the Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB), an affiliate member of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

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